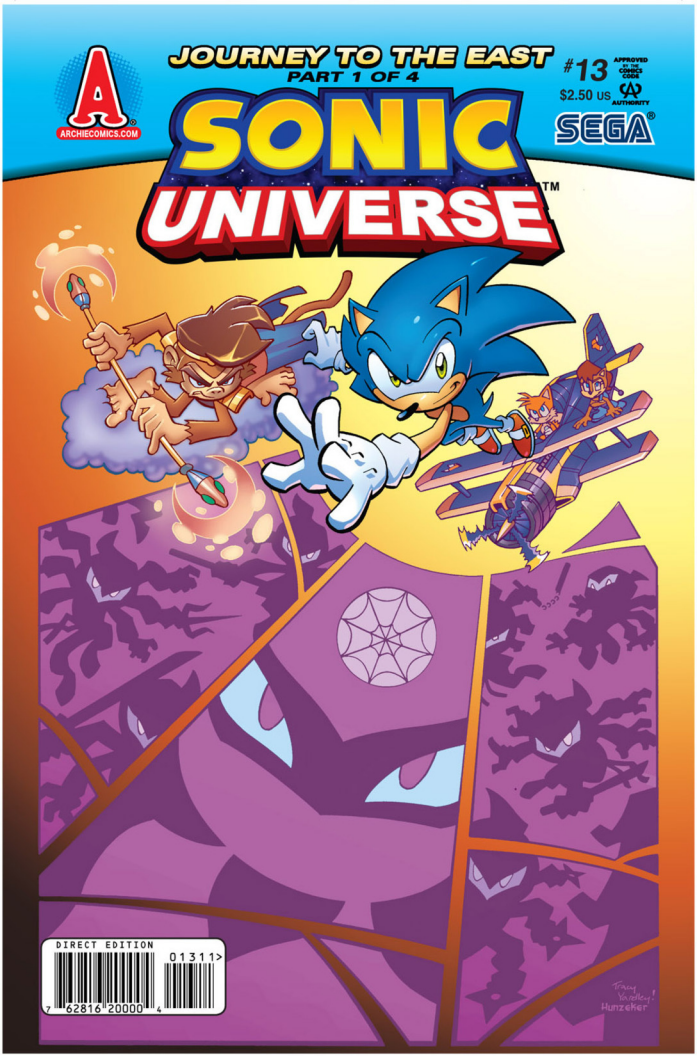
JOURNEY TO THE EAST
PART 1 OF 4
#13
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Tracy Yardley Hunzeker

Welcome to the planet Mobius—a world beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Sonic's city has been conquered by the Iron Dominion. Now he must travel to the mysterious Dragon Kingdom to weaken his enemies from abroad!
Journey to the East
STORMTOP VILLAGE-- DRAGON KINGDOM
YOU GUYS REALLY KNOW HOW TO MAKE A TOURIST FEEL WELCOME!
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG HERO OF MOBIUS
SPIDER NINJA OF THE GOSSAMER CLAN
Part One:
Endless Reach of
FATE
WRITER: IAN FLYNN PENCILS: TRACY YARDLEY INKS: JIM AMASH
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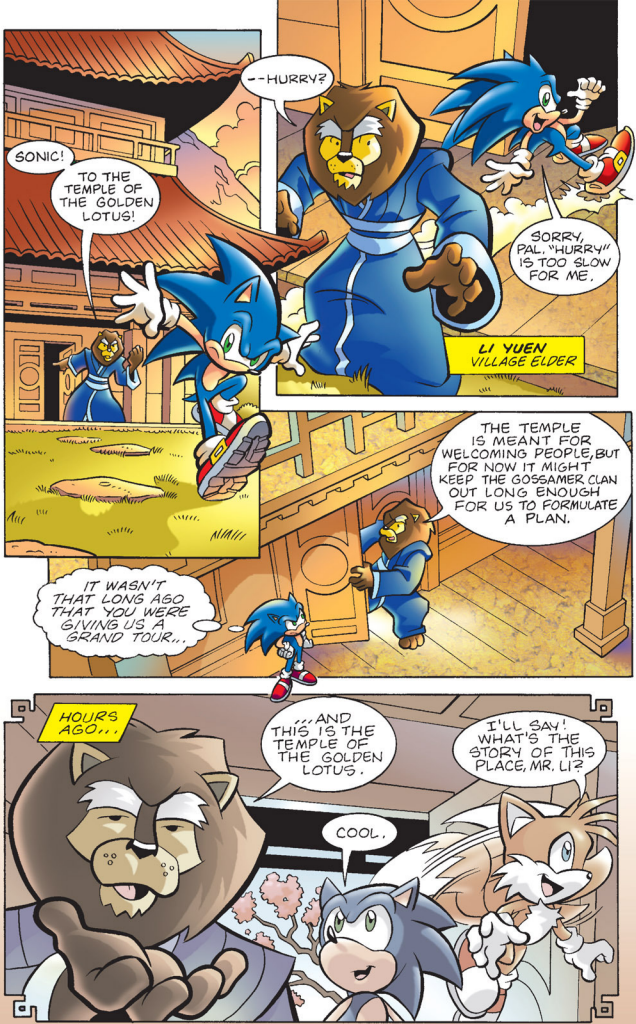
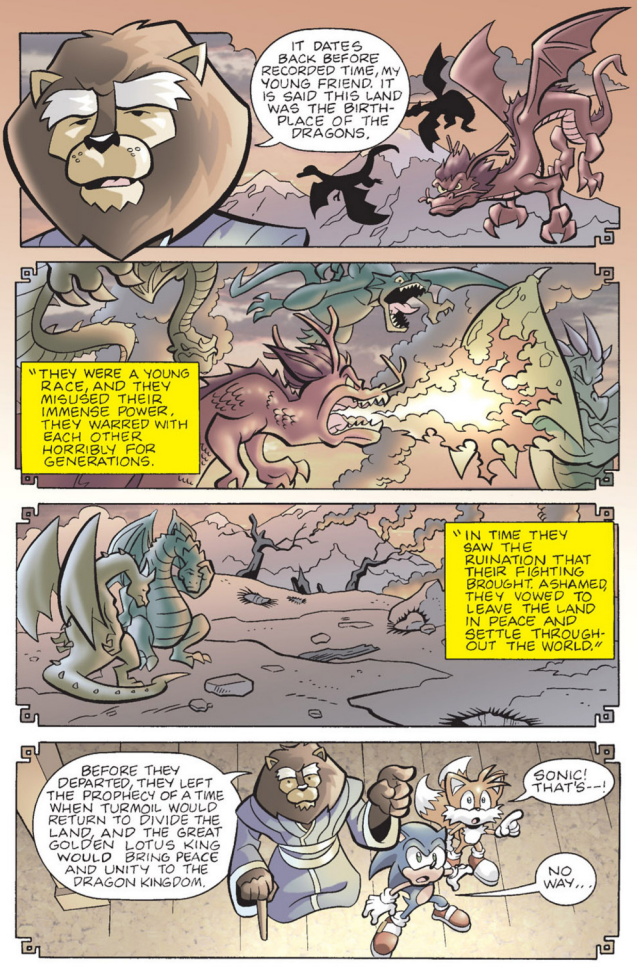
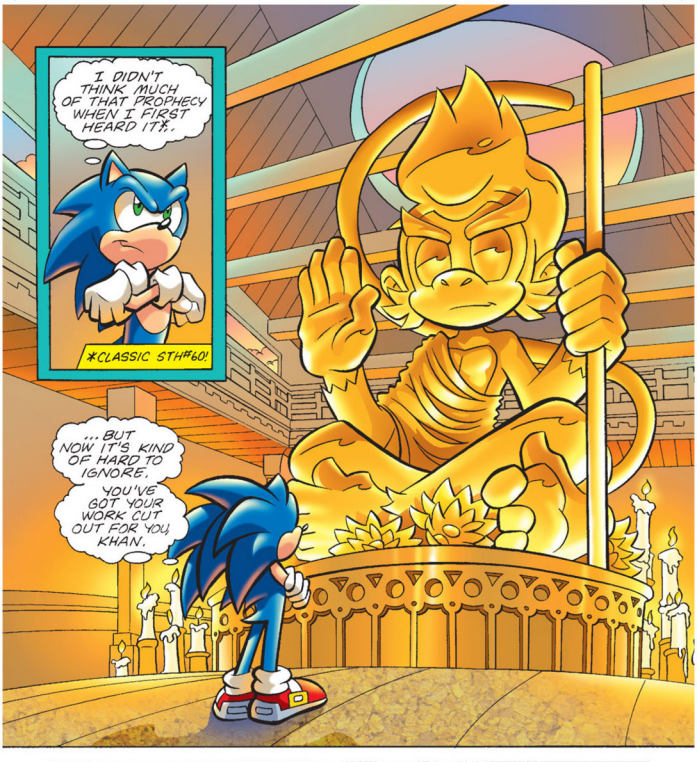
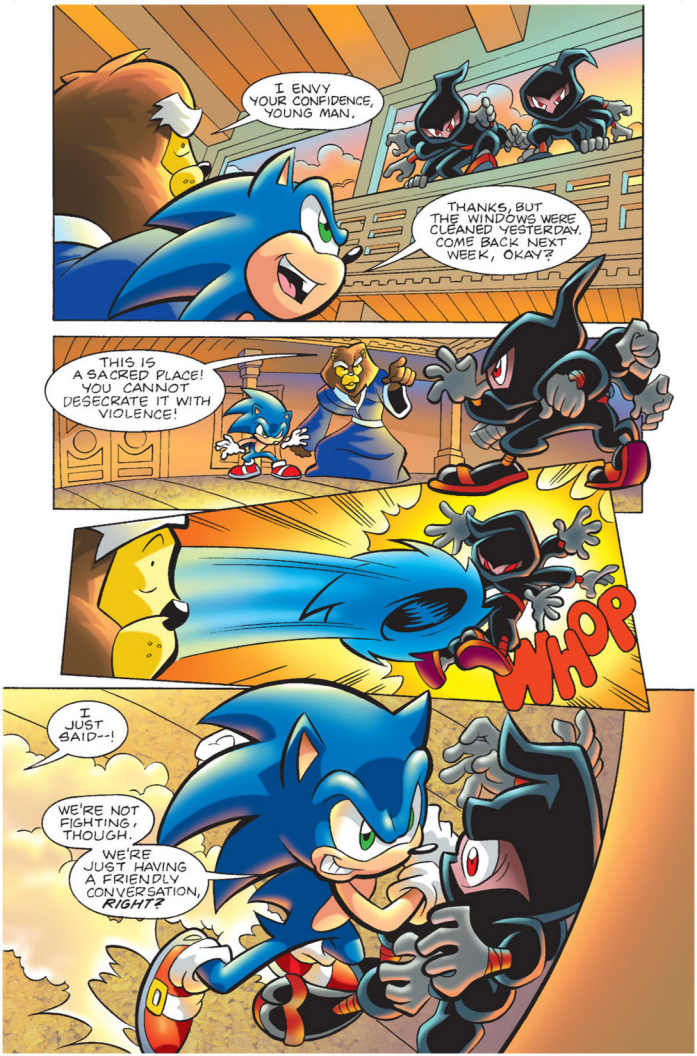
SPECIAL THANKS TO CINDY CHAU & JERRY CHU AT SEGA LICENSING

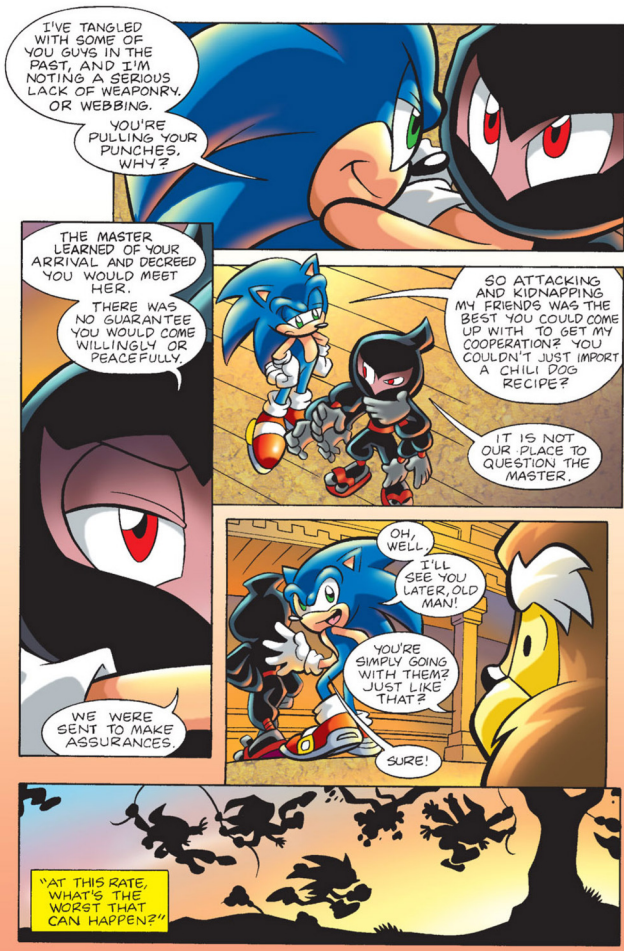

--HURRY?
SONIC!
TO THE TEMPLE OF THE GOLDEN LOTUS!
SORRY, PAL. "HURRY" IS TOO SLOW FOR ME.
LI YUEN
VILLAGE ELDER
THE TEMPLE IS MEANT FOR WELCOMING PEOPLE, BUT FOR NOW IT MIGHT KEEP THE GOSSAMER CLAN OUT LONG ENOUGH FOR US TO FORMULATE A PLAN.
IT WASN'T THAT LONG AGO THAT YOU WERE GIVING US A GRAND TOUR...
HOURS AGO...
...AND THIS IS THE TEMPLE OF THE GOLDEN LOTUS.
I'LL SAY! WHAT'S THE STORY OF THIS PLACE, MR. LI?
COOL.

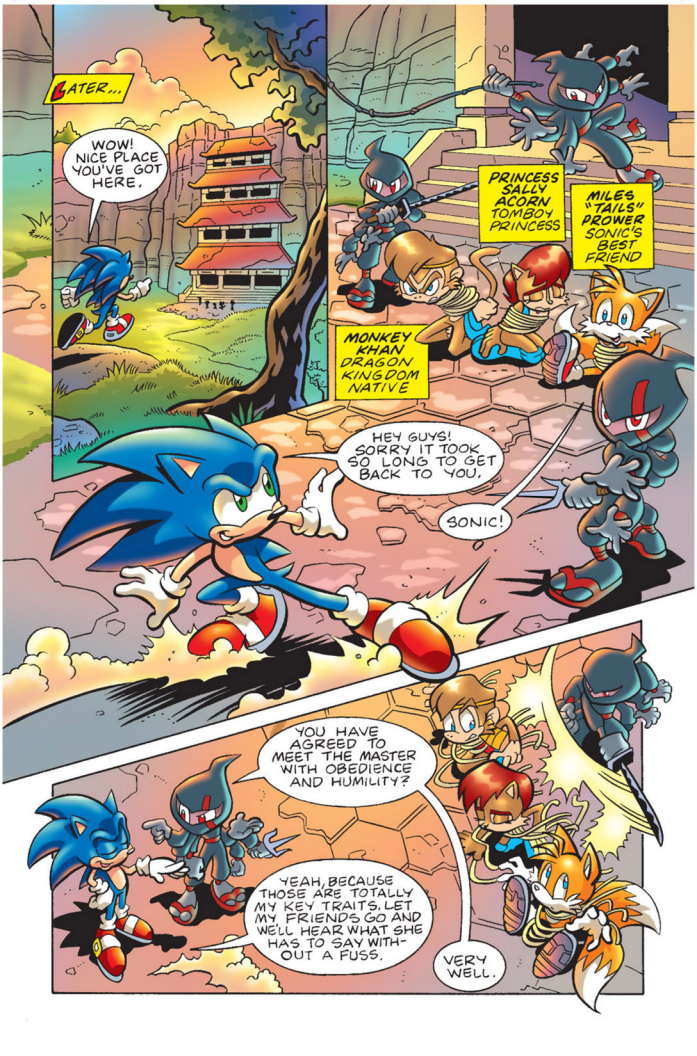

IT DATES BACK BEFORE RECORDED TIME, MY YOUNG FRIEND. IT IS SAID THIS LAND WAS THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE DRAGONS.
"THEY WERE A YOUNG RACE, AND THEY MISUSED THEIR IMMENSE POWER. THEY WARRED WITH EACH OTHER HORRIBLY FOR GENERATIONS.
"IN TIME THEY SAW THE RUINATION THAT THEIR FIGHTING BROUGHT. ASHAMED, THEY VOWED TO LEAVE THE LAND IN PEACE AND SETTLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD."
BEFORE THEY DEPARTED, THEY LEFT THE PROPHECY OF A TIME WHEN TURMOIL WOULD RETURN TO DIVIDE THE LAND, AND THE GREAT GOLDEN LOTUS KING WOULD BRING PEACE AND UNITY TO THE DRAGON KINGDOM.
SONIC! THAT'S--!
NO WAY...

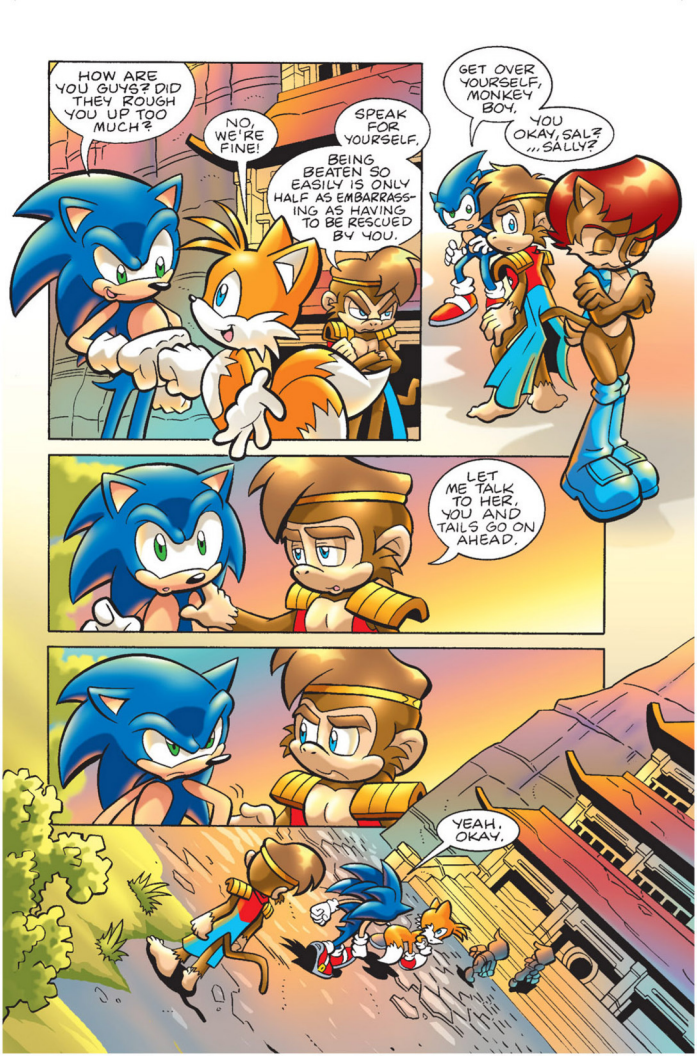

I DIDN'T THINK MUCH OF THAT PROPHECY WHEN I FIRST HEARD IT.
*CLASSIC STH#60!
...BUT NOW IT'S KIND OF HARD TO IGNORE.
YOU'VE GOT YOUR WORK CUT OUT FOR YOU, KHAN.

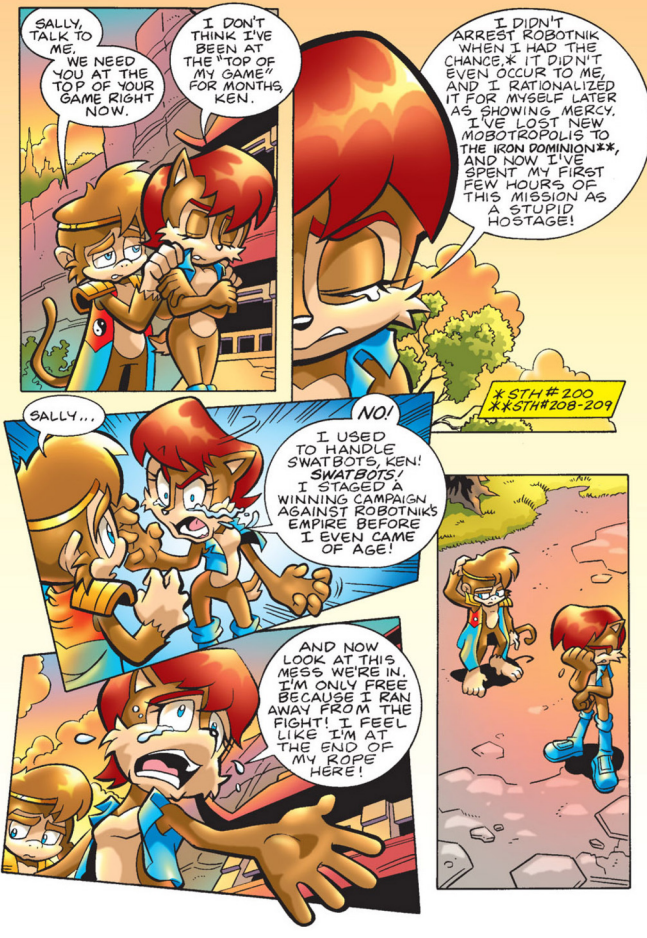
WHILE WE ARE SAFE FOR NOW, I AM AFRAID THE OTHERS HAVE BEEN CAPTURED.
I APOLOGIZE. I HAVE BEEN A POOR STEWARD.
DON'T SWEAT IT, POPS. I'LL THINK OF A WAY TO MAKE THIS WORK.


I ENVY YOUR CONFIDENCE, YOUNG MAN.
THANKS, BUT THE WINDOWS WERE CLEANED YESTERDAY. COME BACK NEXT WEEK, OKAY?
THIS IS A SACRED PLACE! YOU CANNOT DESECRATE IT WITH VIOLENCE!
WHOP
I JUST SAID--!
WE'RE NOT FIGHTING, THOUGH.
WE'RE JUST HAVING A FRIENDLY CONVERSATION, RIGHT?

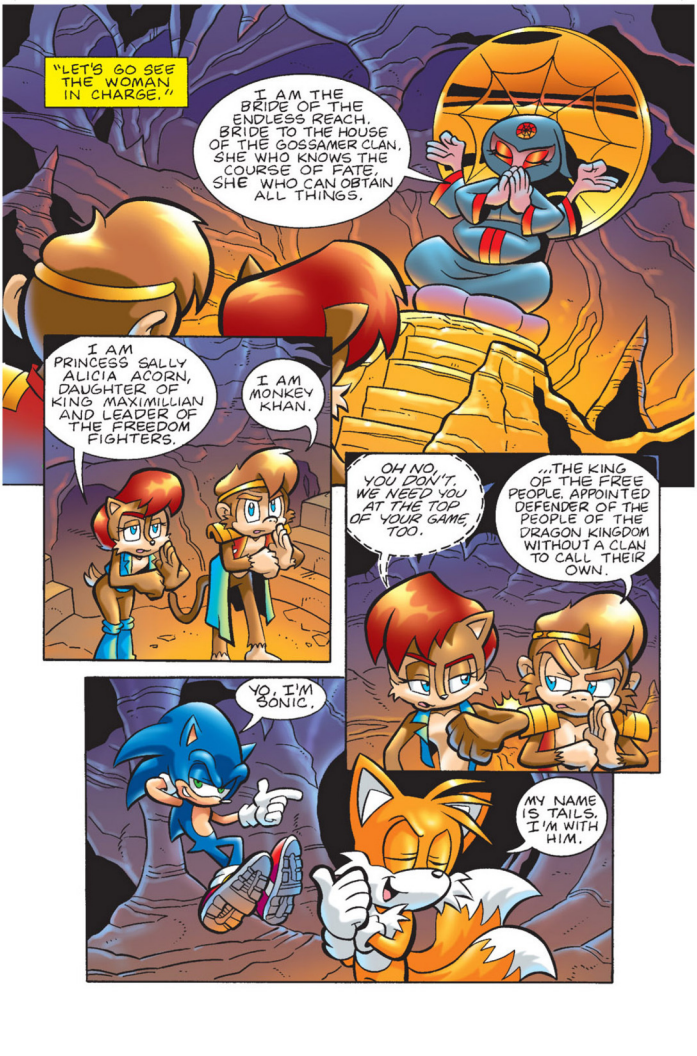

I'VE TANGLED WITH SOME OF YOU GUYS IN THE PAST, AND I'M NOTING A SERIOUS LACK OF WEAPONRY. OR WEBBING.
YOU'RE PULLING YOUR PUNCHES, WHY?
THE MASTER LEARNED OF YOUR ARRIVAL AND DECREED YOU WOULD MEET HER.
THERE WAS NO GUARANTEE YOU WOULD COME WILLINGLY OR PEACEFULLY.
WE WERE SENT TO MAKE ASSURANCES.
SO ATTACKING AND KIDNAPPING MY FRIENDS WAS THE BEST YOU COULD COME UP WITH TO GET MY COOPERATION? YOU COULDN'T JUST IMPORT A CHILI DOG RECIPE?
IT IS NOT OUR PLACE TO QUESTION THE MASTER.
OH, WELL.
I'LL SEE YOU LATER, OLD MAN!
YOU'RE SIMPLY GOING WITH THEM? JUST LIKE THAT?
SURE!
"AT THIS RATE, WHAT'S THE WORST THAT CAN HAPPEN?"


LATER...
WOW! NICE PLACE YOU'VE GOT HERE.
PRINCESS SALLY ACORN TOMBOY PRINCESS
MILES "TAILS" PROWER SONIC'S BEST FRIEND
MONKEY KHAN DRAGON KINGDOM NATIVE
HEY GUYS! SORRY IT TOOK SO LONG TO GET BACK TO YOU.
SONIC!
YOU HAVE AGREED TO MEET THE MASTER WITH OBEDIENCE AND HUMILITY?
YEAH, BECAUSE THOSE ARE TOTALLY MY KEY TRAITS. LET MY FRIENDS GO AND WE'LL HEAR WHAT SHE HAS TO SAY WITHOUT A FUSS.
VERY WELL.


HOW ARE YOU GUYS? DID THEY ROUGH YOU UP TOO MUCH?
NO, WE'RE FINE!
SPEAK FOR YOURSELF.
BEING BEATEN SO EASILY IS ONLY HALF AS EMBARRASSING AS HAVING TO BE RESCUED BY YOU.
GET OVER YOURSELF, MONKEY BOY.
YOU OKAY, SAL? ...SALLY?
LET ME TALK TO HER. YOU AND TAILS GO ON AHEAD.
YEAH. OKAY.

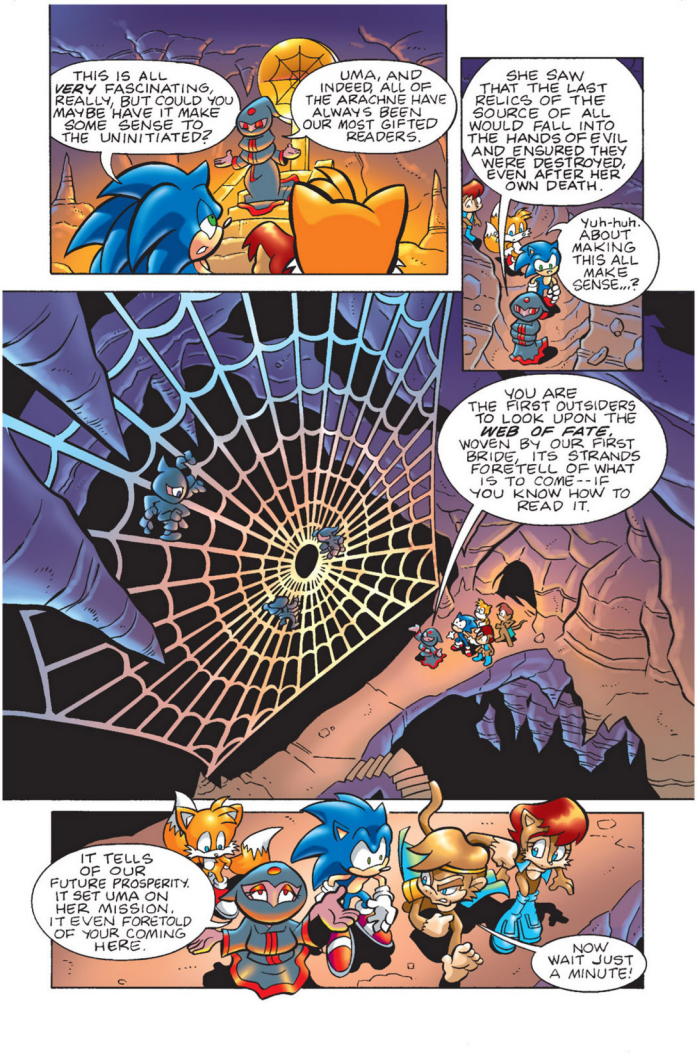

SALLY, TALK TO ME.
WE NEED YOU AT THE TOP OF YOUR GAME RIGHT NOW.
I DON'T THINK I'VE BEEN AT THE "TOP OF MY GAME" FOR MONTHS, KEN.
I DIDN'T ARREST ROBOTNIK WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE,* IT DIDN'T EVEN OCCUR TO ME, AND I RATIONALIZED IT FOR MYSELF LATER AS SHOWING MERCY. I'VE LOST NEW MOBOTROPOLIS TO THE IRON DOMINION**, AND NOW I'VE SPENT MY FIRST FEW HOURS OF THIS MISSION AS A STUPID HOSTAGE!
*STH #200
**STH#208-209
SALLY...
NO!
I USED TO HANDLE SWATBOTS, KEN! SWATBOTS! I STAGED A WINNING CAMPAIGN AGAINST ROBOTNIK'S EMPIRE BEFORE I EVEN CAME OF AGE!
AND NOW LOOK AT THIS MESS WE'RE IN. I'M ONLY FREE BECAUSE I RAN AWAY FROM THE FIGHT! I FEEL LIKE I'M AT THE END OF MY ROPE HERE!

YOU LISTEN TO ME.
YOU ARE BETTER THAN THIS.
YOU CAME UP WITH THE PLAN TO WEAKEN THE IRON DOMINION FROM WITHIN THEIR HOMELAND. YOU WERE THE ONE WHO RESCUED NICOLE. THE ONLY REASON WE HAVE HOPE RIGHT NOW IS BECAUSE OF YOU.
YOU GOT CAUGHT BY THE GOSSAMER CLAN, BUT SO DID I AND I'M FIVE TIMES STRONGER THAN YOU, WITH LIGHTNING POWERS!
YOU MADE A TACTICAL ERROR WITH ROBOTNIK, BUT DOES THAT MEAN YOU'RE JUST GOING TO GIVE UP ON THE REST OF THE FIGHT?
YOU'RE NOT PERFECT, SALLY. BUT YOU'RE CLOSER THAN ANYONE ELSE I KNOW, SO WE'RE JUST GOING TO HAVE TO SETTLE FOR YOUR BEST.
THAT WAS A LOUSY PEP-TALK. THANKS, KEN.
MY PLEASURE.
ALL RIGHT. LET'S GO.


"LET'S GO SEE THE WOMAN IN CHARGE."
I AM THE BRIDE OF THE ENDLESS REACH. BRIDE TO THE HOUSE OF THE GOSSAMER CLAN. SHE WHO KNOWS THE COURSE OF FATE. SHE WHO CAN OBTAIN ALL THINGS.
I AM PRINCESS SALLY ALICIA ACORN, DAUGHTER OF KING MAXIMILLIAN AND LEADER OF THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS.
I AM MONKEY KHAN.
OH NO, YOU DON'T. WE NEED YOU AT THE TOP OF YOUR GAME, TOO.
...THE KING OF THE FREE PEOPLE. APPOINTED DEFENDER OF THE PEOPLE OF THE DRAGON KINGDOM WITHOUT A CLAN TO CALL THEIR OWN.
YO, I'M SONIC.
MY NAME IS TAILS. I'M WITH HIM.

GUYS! WOULD YOU PLEASE--!
Ah, THE ACORN PRINCESS. WE WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO HEAR YOUR ACCOUNT OF OUR DEAREST DAUGHTER--
--UMA ARACHNIS.
SHE WAS ONE OF YOURS?
WAIT, I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER BEEN TO THE DRAGON KINGDOMZ
SHE WAS A MINION OF THE EVIL WIZARD IXIS NAUGUS AND ESCAPED FROM THE ZONE OF SILENCE WITH HIM A LONG WHILE AGO.*
*CLASSIC STH#53
"SHE LATER WORKED WITH THE FORMER WARLORD KODOS TO STEAL THE SWORD OF ACORNS, BUT SHE ENDED UP TURNING ON HIM AND HELPED ME RETRIEVE IT**."
**CLASSIC STH#100!

AND THEN?
I'M SORRY TO SAY SHE DIED FROM RADIATION POISONING. SHE HAD LAID A CLUTCH OF EGGS, AND HER CHILDREN EVENTUALLY TOOK THE SWORD OF ACORNS FROM US...*
*CLASSIC STH #111
...BUT THEY WERE CAPTURED BY DR. ROBOTNIK AND SENT TO HIS EGG GRAPES.** I'M VERY SORRY TO SAY WE COULD NOT RESCUE THEM BEFORE THEY...
**STH #165 -- EDITOR OF ENDLESS FOOTNOTES
THEY WORKED IN SUCH SECRECY... IF WE HAD KNOWN, WE COULD HAVE...
ENOUGH. WHAT WAS THE ULTIMATE FATE OF THE SWORD OF ACORNS?
IT WAS DESTROYED BEFORE IT COULD FALL INTO THE WRONG HANDS.
AS IT WAS SPUN, SO IT HAS BEEN DONE! OUR HEART BREAKS FOR THE LOSS OF OUR DAUGHTER AND HER CHILDREN, BUT IT IS MENDED ANEW WITH NEWS OF THEIR FATES FULFILLED!


THIS IS ALL VERY FASCINATING, REALLY, BUT COULD YOU MAYBE HAVE IT MAKE SOME SENSE TO THE UNINITIATED?
UMA, AND INDEED, ALL OF THE ARACHNE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN OUR MOST GIFTED READERS.
SHE SAW THAT THE LAST RELICS OF THE SOURCE OF ALL WOULD FALL INTO THE HANDS OF EVIL AND ENSURED THEY WERE DESTROYED, EVEN AFTER HER OWN DEATH.
Yuh-huh. ABOUT MAKING THIS ALL MAKE SENSE...?
YOU ARE THE FIRST OUTSIDERS TO LOOK UPON THE WEB OF FATE, WOVEN BY OUR FIRST BRIDE, ITS STRANDS FORETELL OF WHAT IS TO COME--IF YOU KNOW HOW TO READ IT.
IT TELLS OF OUR FUTURE PROSPERITY. IT SET UMA ON HER MISSION. IT EVEN FORETOLD OF YOUR COMING HERE.
NOW WAIT JUST A MINUTE!

IF YOU CAN FORESEE ALL THIS, WHY HAVE YOU BEEN FIGHTING?! WHY HAVE MY PEOPLE BEEN MADE TO SUFFER IF YOU'RE ALREADY SO WELL INFORMED?! WHY AREN'T YOU SHARING YOUR WISDOM WITH THE REST OF THE DRAGON KINGDOM?!
Er... KHAN? MAYBE NOW ISN'T THE BEST TIME TO...
IT IS OUR WEB, WOVEN BY OUR BRIDE AND READ BY OUR CHOSEN. IT IS NOT SOMETHING FOR THE REST OF THE DRAGON KINGDOM.
THE WEB OF FATE TELLS OF THE KEY MOMENTS TO COME, BUT NOT THE ROAD TO TAKE. WE CANNOT USE IT FOR SOMETHING SO BASE AS DAY-TO-DAY TACTICS.
IF YOU THINK THAT I'M JUST GOING TO--!
FURTHERMORE, WE BELIEVE THIS "KING," BORN IN ANOTHER LAND, POWERED BY ROBOTNIK'S GIFTS, AND GIVEN TITLE ONLY BY CLANLESS PEOPLES IS FORGETTING HE IS TALKING TO THE GOSSAMER CLAN'S BRIDE.
}AHEM{

Jughead #200

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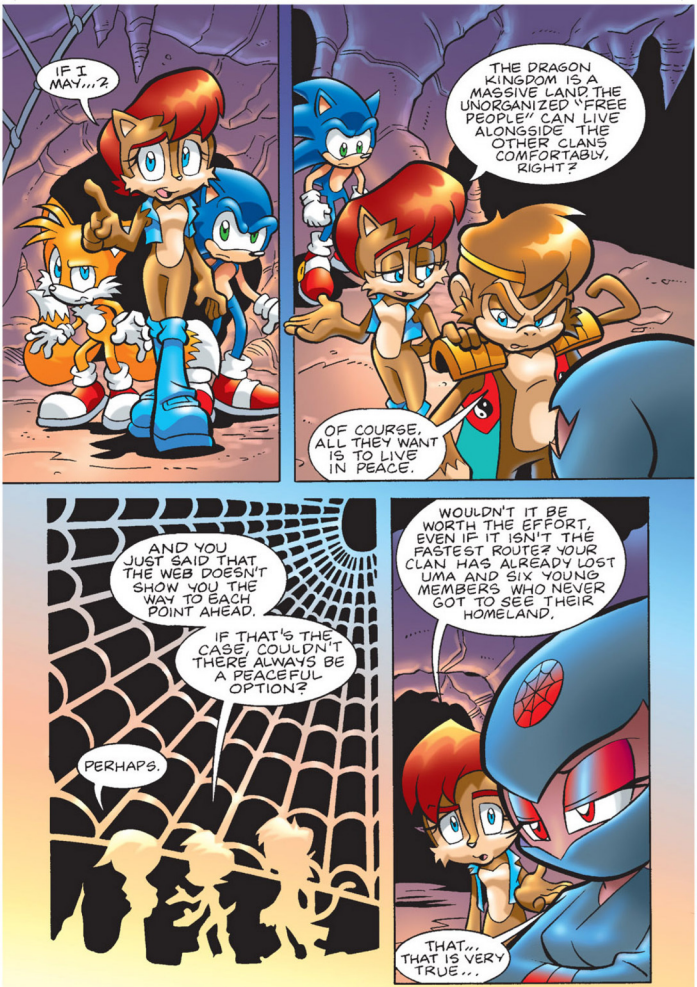
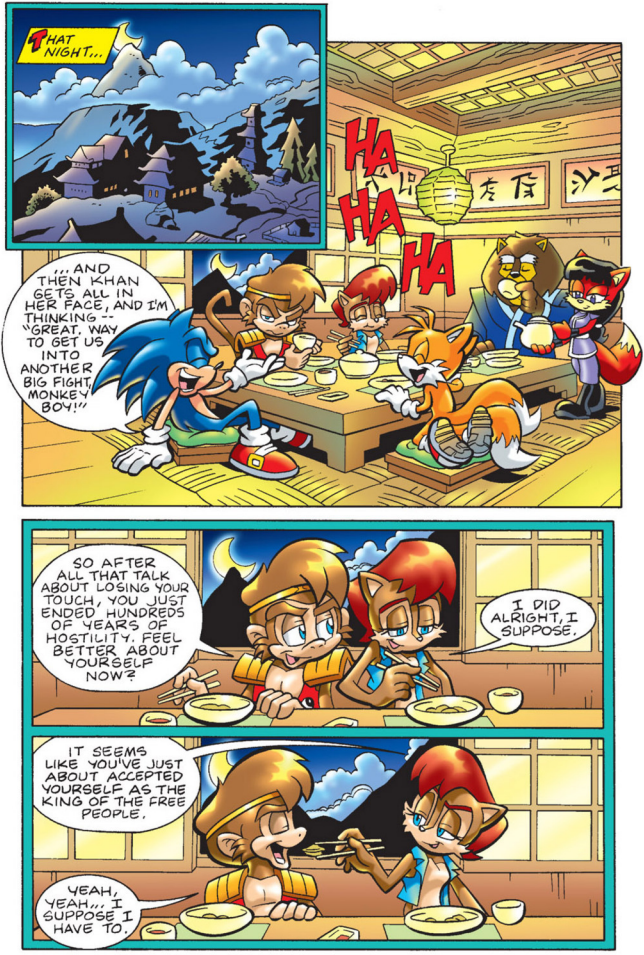
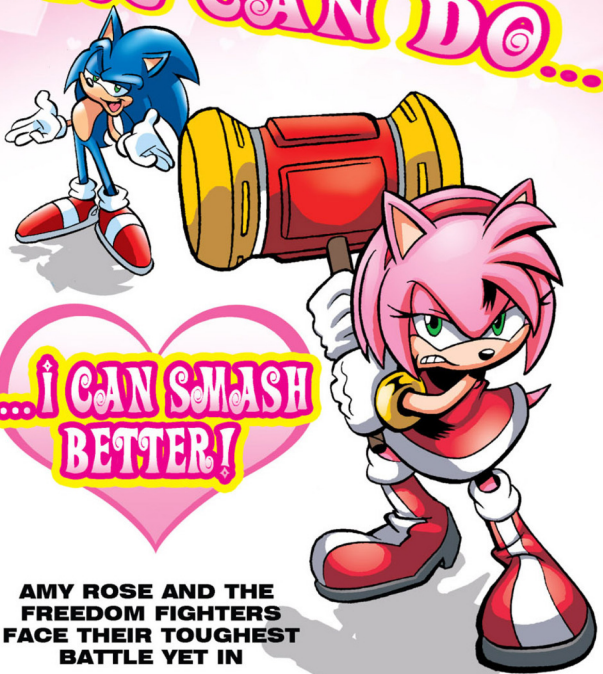

IF I MAY...?
THE DRAGON KINGDOM IS A MASSIVE LAND THE UNORGANIZED "FREE PEOPLE" CAN LIVE ALONGSIDE THE OTHER CLANS COMFORTABLY, RIGHT?
OF COURSE. ALL THEY WANT IS TO LIVE IN PEACE.
AND YOU JUST SAID THAT THE WEB DOESN'T SHOW YOU THE WAY TO EACH POINT AHEAD.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, COULDN'T THERE ALWAYS BE A PEACEFUL OPTION?
PERHAPS.
WOULDN'T IT BE WORTH THE EFFORT, EVEN IF IT ISN'T THE FASTEST ROUTE? YOUR CLAN HAS ALREADY LOST UMA AND SIX YOUNG MEMBERS WHO NEVER GOT TO SEE THEIR HOMELAND.
THAT... THAT IS VERY TRUE...

BUT WOULD THE KING OF THE FREE PEOPLE RECOGNIZE THE GOSSAMER CLAN AND ITS LAND? OR WOULD WE BE OPENING OURSELVES UP TO A NEW "KING OF THE FOUR HOUSES"?
THE PEOPLE ONLY WANT PEACE. AS... AS KING OF THE FREE PEOPLE, I WOULD BE SURE TO HONOR YOUR CLAN AND ITS CLAIMS. YOU HAVE MY WORD OF HONOR.
YOU THINK SHE'S GOING TO JUST BUY "YOUR WORD"?
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DO THINGS OVER THERE, BUT IN THE DRAGON KINGDOM ONE'S "WORD OF HONOR" IS SACRED.
ALRIGHT! ALRIGHT! CONSIDER ME CULTURALLY ENLIGHTENED NOW.
I'M ALL THERE IS TO FIGHT FOR THESE LANDS. THERE ARE NO FREEDOM FIGHTERS HERE. IF THERE'S GOING TO BE PEACE, YOUR CLAN IS GOING TO HAVE TO MAKE THE FIRST GESTURE.

WE SHALL CONSULT THE WEB AND SEE WHAT IT DIRECTS.
WE'RE IN THE HEART OF THEIR FORTRESS. IF SHE SAYS NO, WE'RE IN DEEP TROUBLE.
IN THAT CASE, WE'LL KEEP THE HUNDRED LIMB BRIGADE AT BAY WHILE TAILS GETS SALLY TO SAFETY.
=GULP=
IF IT COMES TO THAT, WE STICK TOGETHER TO THE END.
THE PATH YOU ASK OF US IS FRAUGHT WITH PERIL, AND I SEE DARK DAYS TO COME IF WE CHOOSE IT...
...BUT IT SHOULD ENSURE PEACE AND PROSPERITY FOR ALL CLANS AND ALL PEOPLE IN THE END. WE SHALL REJECT THE IRON DOMINION AND YOU WILL HAVE OUR SUPPORT, YOU HAVE MY WORD OF HONOR.
SCORE ONE FOR THE GOOD GUYS!
YEAH!
THANK YOU, ON BEHALF OF THE REPUBLIC OF ACORN.
WE WILL BE WATCHING YOU WITH GREAT INTEREST, KING OF THE FREE PEOPLE.


THAT NIGHT...
HA HA HA
...AND THEN KHAN GETS ALL IN HER FACE, AND I'M THINKING -- "GREAT. WAY TO GET US INTO ANOTHER BIG FIGHT, MONKEY BOY!"
SO AFTER ALL THAT TALK ABOUT LOSING YOUR TOUCH, YOU JUST ENDED HUNDREDS OF YEARS OF HOSTILITY. FEEL BETTER ABOUT YOURSELF NOW?
I DID ALRIGHT, I SUPPOSE.
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'VE JUST ABOUT ACCEPTED YOURSELF AS THE KING OF THE FREE PEOPLE.
YEAH, YEAH... I SUPPOSE I HAVE TO.

ANYTHING YOU CAN DO...



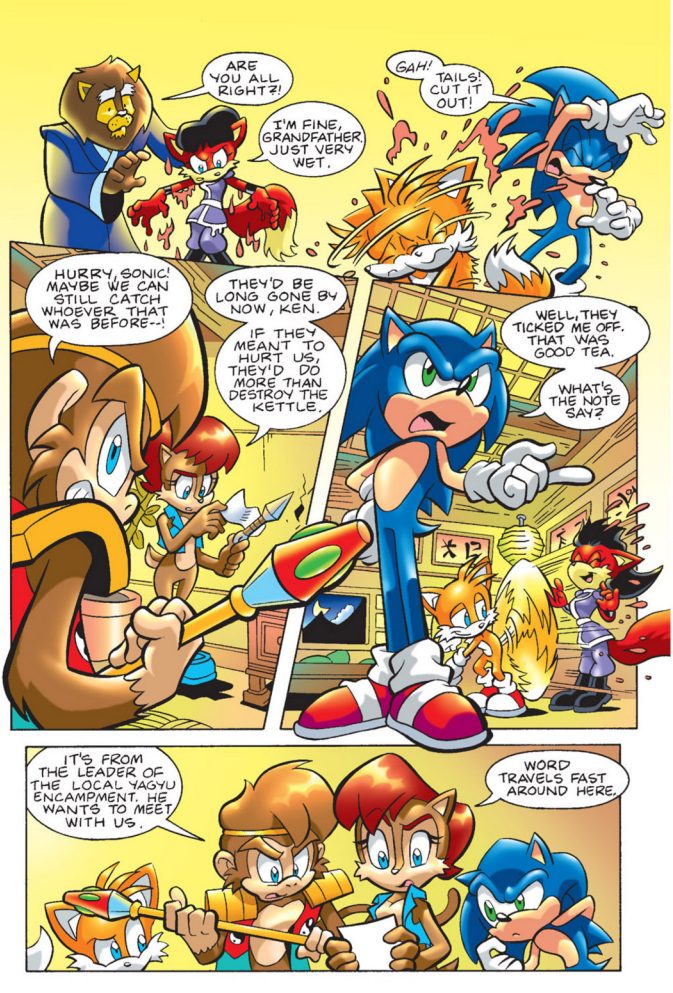
...I CAN SMASH BETTER!

AMY ROSE AND THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS FACE THEIR TOUGHEST BATTLE YET IN

SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG 208 - 212

STARTING THIS JANUARY FROM ARCHIE® ARCHIECOMICS.COM

DO YOU THINK EVERYONE IS DOING OKAY BACK HOME?
SONIC?
WHAT?
OH, YEAH! SURE! DON'T WORRY ABOUT THEM. I'M SURE AMY ROSE AND EVERYONE HAVE EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL WITH NICOLE'S HELP.*
MORE TEA?
*SEE FOR YOURSELF IN STH # 210!
OH! Um, YES PLEASE. THANK YOU, LI MOON.
MY PLEASURE.
IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU AND SONIC AGAIN.
CRASH
AAH!
WHOA!


ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
I'M FINE, GRANDFATHER. JUST VERY WET.
GAH!
TAILS! CUT IT OUT!
HURRY, SONIC! MAYBE WE CAN STILL CATCH WHOEVER THAT WAS BEFORE--!
THEY'D BE LONG GONE BY NOW, KEN.
IF THEY MEANT TO HURT US, THEY'D DO MORE THAN DESTROY THE KETTLE.
WELL, THEY TICKED ME OFF. THAT WAS GOOD TEA.
WHAT'S THE NOTE SAY?
IT'S FROM THE LEADER OF THE LOCAL YAGYU ENCAMPMENT. HE WANTS TO MEET WITH US.
WORD TRAVELS FAST AROUND HERE.

THAT SUITS ME JUST FINE!
WE'VE ALREADY GOTTEN ONE CLAN TO BREAK AWAY. TOMORROW, WE'LL TAKE ON THE YAGYU CLAN!
So far so good, but how can you trust the nefarious Yagyu Clan of Bat Ninjas?
And you'll never guess who returns to darken Sonic and Tails' day!
It's threats old and new next time as Sonic's "Journey to the East" continues!